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NEWS

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Motorized Microfiche Readers Assist Patrons

NLM Closes Card Catalog

At a ceremony on March 4, the National Library of Medicine officially noted the closing of its card catalog and announced the availability of a new COM (Computer-Output-Microform) catalog for use by onsite patrons.

The ceremony marked the culmination of the Library's efforts to develop an acceptable alternative method for Library patrons to access current materials, so that staff resources devoted to card production and filing could be reallocated to activities of benefit to all of NLM's users throughout the world. The imminent conversion to the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules* (2nd Edition) was a factor in the decision to close the catalog. Because of changes to name headings in retrospective records, a tremendous manual effort would have been required to modify and refile cards.

At the ceremony, which was attended by many Library employees, NLM Director **Martin M. Cummings, M.D.**, congratulated the staff who have worked on this project, commending them for their pioneering spirit. "For almost a century," Dr. Cummings said, "card catalogs have been a familiar and integral part of most libraries. Patrons accept them and are comfortable with them. To close the conventional card catalog and provide as an alternative not even a book catalog, but a terminal-access system (CATLINE) and Computer-Output-Microfiche, is a revolutionary step in a library the size of NLM."

Dr. Cummings ended his comments by paraphrasing Jacob Bronowski: "The commonplace of the libraries of tomorrow is the adventure of today, and that is what we are engaged in."

NLM Director Martin M. Cummings, M.D., (seated, left) watches as Carolyn Davis of the Cataloging Section demonstrates the new Strobe/Search 100 reader—one of seven for use by NLM patrons. Each reader will eventually contain NLM's entire catalog of over 600,000 items. For a detailed description of the new reader, see page 2.

In closing the card catalog, NLM has ceased to file cards for current works (except in the shelflist). Although patrons must still consult the card catalog for records of older works, the great majority of their needs can be met by the new COM catalog, which is produced from CATLINE and contains works in the Library's collection catalogued since 1965. As records converted to machine-readable form in NLM's massive retrospective conversion project (*News*, July 1979) are added to CATLINE over the next two years, access to an increasing portion of the Library's collection will be available both in COM output and in the online catalog.

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Background

In May 1980, an inter-divisional task force, chaired by **Tamas Doszkocs, Ph.D.**, then Chief of the Technical Services Division, made the recommendation to close the card catalog in early 1981 and provide a COM catalog as an interim means for patron access to current materials until a "user-cordial" interface to the online catalog file could be developed. The task force looked at various alternatives to the card catalog and studied the work of earlier NLM groups which dealt more specifically with retrospective conversion and user-friendly interfaces to the online catalog file.

Once the task force's recommendations had been accepted, a special COM production working group was appointed, chaired by **Carolyn Davis** of the Cataloging Section. Ms. Davis and **Beth Weil** (Reference Section) developed functional specifications for the new COM product, based on advice from a variety of NLM staff members.

NLM's Office of Computer and Communications Systems (OCCS) was responsible for the necessary software development and COM production. **Jerry Alexander** adapted NLM's regular publications software for the project. **Ted Catchings**, who has primary responsibility for the development of COM applications and the efficient utilization of NLM's newly installed COM equipment, handled the special COM indexing and formatting and actual COM production. The COM catalog was the first full cumulation of the entire CATLINE file, and its production was the first major use of NLM's COM equipment.

Future plans call for the production of a COM version of NLM's catalog suitable for national distribution and for the development of an online catalog for untrained onsite users. Once this special online interface is developed, the inhouse COM catalog will be used as a backup tool.

New Microfiche Readers Feature High-Speed Access and Strobe-Light Index

NLM's COM catalog was generated for use on the Strobe/Search 100 roll microfiche readers produced by Information Retrieval Systems Corporation (New York City). The Strobe-/Search 100 was selected because of several desirable features that make it particularly suitable for the NLM catalog. These include:

- large-capacity storage (up to 1000 standard fiche at 48X reduction) at relatively low cost
- high-speed movement of the film
- a computer-produced index readable while the film is moving

The large capacity of the reader will allow the entire NLM catalog to be placed in one machine. (The catalog is expected to contain approximately 600,000 items by 1983 including 300,000 records currently being converted in the Retrospective Conversion project. Pre-1801 materials in the NLM collection will be added at a later date.) The large capacity storage means the Library requires fewer machines, and users have the convenience of subject and name/title access in one location.

The Strobe/Search 100 works on a strobe light principle which allows a patron to see a computer-produced index as the film is moving at high speed. A patron may move the film at varying speeds to reach the desired area of the catalog; using the fastest speed, a reader can survey the present COM catalog (both name/title and subject sections) in about 35 seconds. The ability to read the index as the film moves, and the high motorized speed of the Strobe-/Search reader, allow quick and easy access to all sections of NLM's large catalog. Because the patron does not physically touch the microfilm, there are no problems resulting from mishandled, lost, or out-of-sequence microfiche.

NLM Plans and Guidelines for Union Lists

The Library is currently engaged in an effort to build a national location/holdings data base as part of the MEDLARS® III system (*News*, August 1979). Serials holdings data from over 500 biomedical libraries, including many hospital libraries, will be merged into the data base by early 1982 and will then be used to generate a variety of union list products. Online access to holdings data for larger serials collections will also be available on SERLINE at that time. Expansion of the data base to include serials holdings data for many other hospital libraries will proceed during the next few years. Eventually, the holdings data base will be used to provide automated routing of document requests in MEDLARS III. In the future, location data for monographs and audiovisuals will also be included in the MEDLARS III system.

The successful development of the national location/holdings data depends on the merger of data from many existing disparate systems and must be governed by specific technical requirements for data coding and transfer. NLM believes that contracts are the best means for coordinating these technical requirements and has therefore decided that resource project grant funds will not be used to create or continue regional or local union lists. Cooperative region-wide union list projects may be eligible for NLM contract support through the RML Program, and several regions are already pursuing such projects with NLM.

For information about related programs in your region, contact your Regional Medical Library. A full status report on NLM's efforts to develop the national holdings data base will appear in an upcoming issue of the *NLM News*.

NLM and OCLC Announce Cooperative Effort

The National Library of Medicine and the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) have announced a cooperative arrangement for online maintenance of Library of Congress MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) tag information.

NLM's research component, the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications (LHC) will provide OCLC with remote access to the Integrated Library System (ILS) at the Lister Hill Center, whereby OCLC will edit and enter current information containing LC MARC tags and subfield codes.

"This collaborative effort should benefit the general library community as well as OCLC and NLM," said **Charles M. Goldstein**, Chief, LHC Computer Technology Branch, who has been responsible for the ILS development (*News*, January 1980). "OCLC can now explore an automated mechanism to maintain current information on the evolving MARC structure, and LHC can maintain currency with respect to MARC tags and subfield codes."

"The project is the first step toward online documentation," said **Phyllis Bova-Spies**, Manager of OCLC Library Systems Analysis and Design Department, the group at OCLC that will be responsible for entering and editing current information on tags and subfield codes, as well as recording the differences between OCLC and MARC tags. "This cooperative project will allow the ILS Master Bibliographic File definitions to remain current as MARC evolves," said Ms. Bova-Spies, "and OCLC will have a new way to maintain documentation on changes to MARC."

The Lister Hill Center intends to make data resulting from the arrangement available through the National Technical Information Service, Department of Commerce.

Dr. Richard S. Dick, who is now Deputy Chief of NLM's Bibliographic Services Division, was originally responsible for the development of the ILS program for online editing and review of MARC tags. **Lizanne Payne** of the LHC Computer Technology Branch, as ILS project leader, is directing further improvements. **Gary Freiburger**, an IPA appointee to the LHC/CTB from the University of Maryland Health Sciences Library, is coordinating the activities between OCLC and LHC.

Post-WWII History of Medical Bibliography by Former Deputy Director

To what extent did "Sputnikitis" affect the course of biomedical bibliography? What purposes do national bibliographies and indexes serve? How soon will machine search of bibliographical data bases displace print and paper publication of indexes and abstracts? These are a few of the questions addressed by **Scott Adams**

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in his new book, *Medical Bibliography in an Age of Discontinuity*, published recently by the Medical Library Association.

This history of biomedical bibliography and medical information systems from 1945 to the present is intended as a sequel to **Dr. Estelle Brodman**'s book, *Development of Medical Bibliography* (MLA 1954, reprinted 1981). Mr. Adams, former Deputy Director of NLM, describes the government's growing concern for the organization and communication of biomedical information as a means to achieve national health objectives, the continuing interest of scientific societies, and the expanding role of the information industry.

Michael E. DeBakey, M.D., in the preface, describes the work as containing "a wealth of information that should be of interest to historians, biomedical scientists, and biomedical librarians," and notes Mr. Adams' eminent qualifications to write such a work after his active involvement in postwar medical librarianship and information science.

Medical Bibliography in an Age of Discontinuity (224 pages) is available for $21.50 from the Medical Library Association, 919 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 3208, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Notes for Online Users

More details on the following notes regarding MEDLARS online services may be obtained from your nearest online center.

- **First MEDLINE Backfile Online at NLM:** Until recently only the current three years of data were searchable online; backfiles, covering earlier periods were accessible only offline. Now the MED77 (BACK77) is available for online searching at NLM. This file contains citations from 1977 and 78. Among other users, the hospital library community was active in encouraging the Library to make more years available online. Further consideration will be given to mounting other backfiles at NLM, and if possible, at SUNY as well. User response and online usage of MED77 will be important factors in this decision.
- **CHEMLINE® Price Increase:** A significant increase in royalty payments to Chemical Abstracts Service for use of its data has required NLM to increase CHEMLINE (Chemical Dictionary Online) charges effective April 1, 1981. The prime time charge for domestic users will be $52 per connect hour, which includes a $37.64 royalty charge.
- **TOXLINE® Subfile Added:** A new subfile has been added to the TOXLINE (Toxicology Information Online) data base. This subfile, identified as TD3 (Toxicology Document and Data Depository), has citations to the report literature, along with associated abstracts, generated keywords, and ordering information.

Interlibrary Loan Requestors Take Note!

Realizing the importance and urgency of filling interlibrary loans, the National Library of Medicine makes every effort to expedite sending them to the requestor. However, it has been noted that there are frequent and unnecessary delays because of incorrectly filled out or incomplete interlibrary loan forms. NLM's Circulation and Control Section reminds requestors that the Library's interlibrary loan policies and procedures must be carefully followed if loans are to be processed promptly.

The following points apply to all requests, including those referred through Regional or Resource libraries:

1. A copyright compliance statement *must* be checked and appear *on each copy* of the ILL request form and TWX requests *must* include the compliance statement or code. Failure to provide this information will result in your request being rejected.
2. *All requests must be typed.* Handwritten requests will not be accepted. The NLM interlibrary loan policy specifically states: "Borrowing libraries will submit requests by teletypewriter or typed in triplicate on ALA interlibrary loan request forms."
3. All requests, whether on ILL form or by TWX, must include a *complete* address—TWX senders, please take special note of this point.

Your cooperation in observing these policies will help us to provide the best possible service to you.

Computer operator George Martin (foreground) loads a program into the newly acquired IBM 370/168 multiprocessor system, located in the Library's Lister Hill Center building. The new MEDLARS computers, obtained from NIH's Division of Computer Research and Technology, increase the Library's computer capacity nearly threefold—enough to meet the estimated 20% to 25% annual growth of NLM's data processing requirements through 1984. The new computers replace the IBM 370/158 system. (February computer usage increased to a record average of over 600 hours per day for the month. This represents about 60 users of the MEDLARS online services at any given time.)

New NLM Literature Searches

Eight new titles in the NLM Literature Search series may now be requested from the Library's Reference Section (see below). Literature Searches are printed bibliographies produced through MEDLINE on subjects of current interest. They are available without charge. (A complete list of titles appears in each issue of *Index Medicus* and *Abridged Index Medicus*.) When requesting Literature Searches, please include title and number, enclose a self-addressed gummed label, and mail to:

Literature Search Program
Reference Section
National Library of Medicine
Bethesda, Maryland 20209

LS 80-25 *The aging brain.* January 1979 through December 1980. 494 citations.

LS 80-26 *Toxicology of polychlorinated biphenyl compounds.* January 1975 through December 1980. 517 citations.

LS 80-27 *Bendectin and Debendox.* January 1966 through December 1980. 17 citations.

LS 80-28 *Diet and cancer: etiology and prevention.* January 1978 through December 1980. 371 citations.

LS 80-29 *Reimplantation.* January 1978 through December 1980. 190 citations.

LS 80-30 *Agent orange.* January 1978 through December 1980. 190 citations.

LS 80-31 *Therapeutic use of dimethyl sulfoxide.* January 1975 through December 1980.

LS 80-32 *Toxicology of polybrominated biphenyl compounds.* January 1977 through December 1980. 124 citations.

Publication Notes

List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus, 1981. The 1981 *LJI*, listing the 2,686 journals indexed in *Index Medicus*, may now be ordered from the Government Printing Office. The *LJI* has four major sections: an alphabetic listing by full title, followed by abbreviated title; listing by abbreviated title, followed by full title; alphabetic listing by subject field; and alphabetic listing by country of origin. (The first two of these sections are also found in the January issue of *Index Medicus*.) Orders for the *List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus, 1981*, should be sent to the Superintendent of Documents (U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402). Price: $6.50 ($8.15 foreign). Stock Number 017-052-00220-1.

List of Serials and Monographs Indexed for Online Users, 1981. This is the second in an annual series designed to provide unified access to information on all journals indexed for MEDLINE, the Health Planning and Administration files, and POPLINE. The 1981 issue supersedes the 1980 edition, which had been furnished to domestic online centers without charge. Beginning with this new issue, all copies must be ordered from the National Technical Information Service (Springfield, VA 22161). Price: $8 ($3.50 microfiche). Accession Number PB81-159469.

MEDLARS Indexing Manual, Part II, 1980. This revision of the 1977 edition has recently been published by the National Technical Information Service. It supplements Part I, 1977, which is still available from NTIS (PB-254270, Price: $7.25). While Part I deals with general bibliographic principles governing the citation of articles in *Index Medicus* and other MEDLARS products, Part II is devoted to the rules governing the technical analysis and indexing of journals and monographs. Part II of the Manual contains sections on the following: Indexing Operation, Depth Indexing, IM Headings and Non-IM Headings, Indexed Citation Form, Review Articles, Citation Types, Check Tags, Qualifiers, General Indexing Principles, Categories A-N and Z, and a complete index to Parts I and II of the Manual. Order from NTIS. Price: $15 ($3.50 microfiche). PB81-136491.

Technical Notes: MEDLARS Indexing Instructions, Tumor Key Supplement. This indexing guide, designed primarily for MEDLARS indexers and searchers, is intended as a guide to the correct MeSH terms for various histological types of tumor and cancer. This supplement to *Technical Notes* is a revision of the 1975 Tumor Key to bring it up to date with the 1981 *Medical Subject Headings* and the *International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (ICD-O)*. Order from NTIS. Price: $6.50 ($3.50 microfiche). PB81-134553.

Chemical Waste Disposal—Chemicals Identified in Terrestrial and Aquatic Waste Disposal Processes (NLM/TIRC-80/3). This 82-page annotated bibliography, covering 1964-1979, was prepared in November 1980 by the NLM-sponsored Toxicology Information Response Center, and is available for $10 postpaid from the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20014. Also available from FASEB is **Health Aspects of Urea/Formaldehyde Compounds** (NLM/TIRC-80/4). This 52-page selected bibliography with abstracts covering 1963-1980 is priced at $7.50 postpaid. Further information on these and the first two bibliographies in the series, *Health and Environmental Effects of Acid Rain* and *Asbestos in Air*—is available from FASEB (see also *News*, March 1980 and September 1980).

Publication Grant Program

The Library's Publication Grant program provides limited financial support for the preparation and/or publication of biomedical scientific publications. Projects that require large-scale or long-term support (beyond a maximum of three years) are not appropriate for the program. Support is also not provided for the publication of textbooks or other commercially viable products, curriculum materials, initial reporting of research findings, proceedings of meetings, or materials that would have only local interest.

Some of the recent publications resulting from NLM support under provisions of the

Medical Library Assistance Act are listed below. **Note:** The National Library of Medicine does not distribute any of these publications; all correspondence regarding their distribution must be directed to the publishers.

Ackerman, Evelyn B. "Use by Patients of a French Provincial Hospital, 1895-1923." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, Vol. 54, pp. 188-203.

_____. "The Hospital of Mantes-La-Jolie in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century," *1978 Proceedings of the Consortium on Revolutionary Europe, 1750-1850*, pp. 200-207.

Forbes, Thomas R. "Weaver and Cordwainer: Occupations in the Parish of St. Giles without Cripplegate, London, in 1654-1693 and 1729-1743," *Guildhall Studies in London History*, Vol. IV, No. 3, October 1980, pp. 119-132.

Harbach, Ralph E. and Knight, Kenneth L. *Taxonomists' Glossary of Mosquito Anatomy*, Raleigh, North Carolina: North Carolina State University, 1980. 415 p.

In this glossary, the authors have collected from the literature all terminology applicable to the sclerotized structures of the mosquito life states. The anatomical and descriptive terminology of mosquitoes is treated under five headings: adult, egg, larva, pupa, and vestiture. All terms (both suggested standard terms and synonyms) are arranged alphabetically. Reviewers have stated that this is the most complete descriptive terminology ever published. The new work is a successor to the standard glossary by Belkin, published in 1962, and is expected to be an invaluable reference tool for entomological researchers everywhere.

Jarcho, Saul. *The Concept of Heart Failure; From Avicenna to Albertini: Translations, commentaries, and an essay.* Cambridge, Massachusetts; Harvard University Press, 1980, 47 pp.

Dr. Jarcho's book is the product of many years of historical research into the origin of concepts of congestive heart failure. The work spans 19 authors from the Middle Ages, as represented by the writings of Avicenna (980 to 1037 A.D.), through to the eighteenth century, as represented by Ippolito Francesco Albertini (1662-1738 A.D.). In a summary chapter Dr. Jarcho offers a retrospect of the seven centuries embraced by the translated texts and briefly reviews the developments that have occurred in this field since Albertini.

O'Neill, Ynez Viole. "Ossa mandivulae inferioris duo; A Recapitulation," *Clio Medica*, Vol. 14, No. 2, 1980, pp. 97-104.

Osborn, Dale J. and Helmy, Ibrahim. *Fieldiana Zoology; The Contemporary Land Mammals of Egypt (Including Sinai).* Chicago, Illinois: Field Museum of Natural History, August 15, 1980, 579 pp.

Walkowitz, Judith R. *Prostitution and Victorian Society; Women, Class, and the State.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1980. 347 pp.

This is a historical study of a unique experiment in social medicine: the state regulation of prostitution in mid-Victorian Britain, as established by the Contagious Diseases Act of 1854, 1866 and 1869. These Acts generated medical statistics on the incidence of venereal disease not otherwise available. From the printed and archival sources on the administration of the Acts, Dr. Walkowitz has drawn information on the treatment of venereal disease and the feasibility of state regulation of prostitutes as a form of sanitary control. She has also explored the consequences of the controversy surrounding the Acts, on medical, social and legal policy in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Walters, Leroy, ed. *Bibiography of Bioethics.* Volume 6. Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1980, 336 pp.

Biomedical Library Review Committee

Four new members have been named to NLM's Biomedical Library Review Committee, which meets three times a year to review NLM grant applications. Their four-year terms begin July 1. The Committee will be chaired for 1981/82 by **Nina Mathesson** (Assistant Director, Health Information Management Studies, Association of American Medical Colleges, Washington, DC).

The new BLRC members are:

Ellen Altman, Ph.D.
Director, Graduate Library School
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ

Lauro F. Cavazos, Ph.D.
President, Texas Tech University
and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
Lubbock, TX

Virginia Holtz
Director, Center for Health Sciences Libraries
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI

Donald F. Polchyly, M.D.
Chief, Section of General Medicine
Hines VA Hospital
Hines, IL

Personnel Notes

Merlin L. Brubaker, M.D., former Director of the Office of Refugee Health Affairs in DHHS's Office of International Health, has been appointed Acting Deputy Director of NLM's National Medical Audiovisual Center. Before coming to the Library, Dr. Brubaker was with the U.S. Public Health Service sub-regional office in San Juan. Dr. Brubaker has done extensive research in the areas of tropical medicine and infectious diseases and has been a consultant to the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization. Other staff changes are listed below.

Gains

- Debora Allen, Computer Technician, Lister Hill Center
- Devega Belton, Health Manpower Specialist, National Medical Audiovisual Center
- Gloria Fox, Management Assistant, Office of Administration
- Warren Hoag, D.V.M., Specialized Information Service
- Michelle Trite, Computer Operator, Office of Computer and Communications Services
- Renee White, Clerk Typist, Lister Hill Center

Losses

- Ellen Dolich, AV Production Officer, NMAC
- Mia Hannula, Librarian, Technical Services Division
- Dora Timke, Chemist, Bibliographic Services Division

Serial Gap List

NLM regularly solicits the help of the medical library community in filling gaps in its serial collections. If you can provide any of these items we would be most grateful. Please address them to:

National Library of Medicine
TSD—Gaps
Bethesda, Maryland 20209

Chronic Disease March 1974

Food Technology Vol. 12, 1958

Homeopathic Heartbeat 1: 2; 2: 6, 1979

Hospital Libraries 4: 3, 1979

Journal of Environmental Pathology and Toxicology 1: 2, 1977; 2: 1, 2, 1978

Journal of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus 15: 2, 1978

Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews 3: Supp., 1979; 4: Supp., 1980

New Jersey Nurse 9: 3, 4, 6, 1979

Quadrant 1: 1-3, 1968; 2: 1-3, 1969; 3: 1-3, 1970; 4: 1-3, 1971; 5: 10, 11, 1972

Quarterly Bulletin—American Association of Physicists in Medicine 1: 1-4, 1967; 2: 1-4, 1968; 3: 1-4, 1969

Quarterly Bulletin—Association of Food and Drug Officials of the United States 29: 1, 1965

Scientist and Citizen 6: 1-8, 1964; 7: 7, 1965; 8: 9, 1966; 9: 8-10, 1967

Scientific Report—Bioelectromagnetics Research Laboratory Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Washington School of Medicine Nos. 1-5

Serie de Biologia. Monografia. Nos. 13 and 16

Sociological Methodology 1970, 1977

Southern Pharmaceutical Journal 62: 4, 10, 1969; 65: 10-12, 1972